

SEES A BAR TO JEWS IN MEDICAL STUDY

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York Times (1857-Current file); Dec 1, 1934;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)

pg. 5

SEES A BAR TO JEWS IN MEDICAL STUDY

President McConaughy Warns
12 at Wesleyan That Graduate
Schools Discourage Them.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS DENIED

Students of Other Races Also
Are Told of Difficulties Put
in Their Way, He Says.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Nov. 30.—

The text of a letter sent to twelve Jewish students in the pre-medical course at Wesleyan University advising them that it would be difficult for them to enter medical schools was made public here today by Dr. James L. McConaughy, president of the university.

The letter, written by Dr. McConaughy and Dr. Edward Christian Schneider, Professor of Biology, pointed to an estimate that 17 per cent of the freshmen students in medical schools were Jews. Citing reports that the Jews in this country constituted 5 per cent of the population and that over 50 per cent of the applicants for medical schools last year were of Jewish ancestry, the letter pointed out that "it is difficult for Wesleyan to place her graduates of the Jewish race in medical schools."

Commenting on the letter, Dr. McConaughy said it was not intended to convey the impression that medical schools were anti-Semitic, or that Wesleyan was seeking to discourage Jews from studying medicine. The letter was written, he said, merely to present the difficulties of entering medical schools. Students of other races have been informed by their teachers of dif-

ficulties they may find in seeking a medical career, he said.

TEXT OF THE LETTER.

The text of the letter was as follows:

"We are sending you this memorandum in order that there may be no misunderstanding regarding the rather difficult situation which you may face if you are planning to seek admission to a medical school.

"It is important to recognize that the opportunity to study medicine is definitely limited by the medical schools of this and other lands. In our country each year between 6,200 and 6,300 medical freshmen are chosen from a field of approximately 14,000 applicants.

"Furthermore, foreign study is restricted in that almost impossible barriers have been established in many countries abroad and by legislation in most of our States. Any young man wishing to study abroad must first get permission from the State in which he wishes to practice. Most States are refusing to accept the foreign diploma.

"While the racial question does enter somewhat into the selection of students, it does not enter as much as some claim. The Association of Medical Colleges reports that 17 per cent of the freshmen students in medical schools are Jews. It is pointed out that in this country, out of a population of more than 120,000,000, there are probably between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 Jews. They, in round numbers, make up not more than 5 per cent of the entire population.

"It has further been reported that over 50 per cent of the applicants for entrance to the medical schools in 1933 were of Jewish ancestry.

"Very Little Room Left."

"The above facts explain why it is difficult for Wesleyan to place her graduates of the Jewish race in medical schools. It should be apparent that in selecting its freshmen each medical school will feel some degree of responsibility for the graduates of the institution with which it is associated, and it therefore is impelled to accept the promising applicants within its own borders.

"It is now quite generally admit-

ted that after that selection has been made very little room is left for Jewish candidates from other institutions.

"We have no desire to discourage you in your hope for a medical career, but feel that it is only fair that you should know the circumstances. We have been disturbed at the difficulties which some of our students, even after a very good Wesleyan record, have encountered in the last few years in securing admission to medical schools."

Dr. McConaughy said there were about thirty Jewish students among 650 young men at Wesleyan. When the twelve told their teachers of their definite intention to study medicine, he said he felt that they should be informed of the difficulties they might face.